AMENDMENT

SIR:

In response to the Office Action mailed on March 29, 2000 (Paper No. 6), the three-month shortened statutory period for response expiring on June 29, 2000, kindly amend the Application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Official

Please amend claims 9, 13, 24, 89, 93, 97, 108, 119 and 129 as follows:

9. (Amended)   A method to control overtime in an electronic auction [of conducting a business-to-business online auction for custom industrial products or materials between a buyer and a plurality of potential sellers], comprising the steps of:

(a)   offering a plurality of lots, defined at least in part by a buyer, to a plurality of potential sellers, each of said plurality of lots having at least one product;

(b)   defining a closing time for each of said plurality of lots, wherein a closing time for a lot defines a time before which bids for the lot are to be submitted by a potential seller;

(c)   defining an overtime extension parameter for each of said plurality of lots, said overtime extension parameter indicating a length of an overtime period for an associated lot, wherein an overtime extension parameter for a lot is based upon characteristics of one or more items in the lot;

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